
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5970

AN ACT CONCERNING THE POWER OF MUNICIPAL FAIR RENT COMMISSIONS.

SUMMARY:

By law, municipal fair rent commissions have the authority to investigate and address complaints regarding “rental charges” for housing, including mobile homes and mobile home lots, but not seasonal rentals. This bill defines “rental charge” to include any fee, charge, or rent assessed against a tenant by a landlord.

The bill applies the definition of seasonal basis and rental charge to all of the municipal fair rent commission statutes, not just CGS § 7-148b, which specifies how they are created and their powers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

Fair Rent Commissions

The law permits any municipality to establish a fair rent commission to “control and eliminate excessive rental charges.” Commissions can receive and investigate rent complaints, issue subpoenas, hold hearings, and order landlords to reduce rents. Commissions do not have jurisdiction over seasonal rentals (units that are rented, in the aggregate, for no more than 120 days a year).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/14/2013)